

Light Brown Apple Moth Update

10/18/07

A press release was issued by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) announcing the detection of a single adult male Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) in Cambria, California.

In response to the finding, CDFA officials initiated a sixteen square mile delimitation survey around the detection site. Fourteen CDFA employees will deploy up to 475 baited traps specific to LBAM in order to determine whether or not other LBAM exist in the area. The traps will be inspected 24 hours after deployment and on a weekly basis thereafter.

Later this week, the site of the LBAM detection is scheduled to be treated with a pesticide approved by both CDFA and USDA. A complete inspection of the detection site will be conducted 24 hours after the treatment is complete to verify that no remaining life stages of the pest exist. The survey will be conducted by the San Luis Obispo County Agricultural Commissioner's office in conjunction with CDFA.

10/19/07

The exact number of traps deployed in the CDFA delimitation effort is 168, with 100 being distributed in the core square mile around the original find site. The first servicing of these traps yielded 3 moths that will be sent to the CDFA lab for analysis.

10/20/07

A treatment of the original LBAM detection site was conducted using CDFA/USDA approved products from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Staff from the San Luis Obispo County Agricultural Commissioner's Office (SLOCAC) monitored the treatment.

10/21/07

A 100% inspection of the detection site was conducted at 1:30 pm by the SLOCAC. Specimens collected (3 larvae, 2 egg masses) were sent to the CDFA lab in Sacramento for identification. Identification of pending samples will take 1-10 days.

10/23/07

All outstanding samples were identified by the CDFA lab as non-target species.

Because a single adult moth (original find) does not trigger a quarantine under the Federal Order issued by USDA, San Luis Obispo County remains a non-infested county.

10/26/07

CDFA serviced the 168 LBAM delimitation traps. Seven moth samples were taken with lab analysis pending.

11/1/07

CDFA moth samples collected on 10/26/07 were determined to be non-target species.

12/3/07

CDFA delimitation efforts continue in the Cambria area. No positive moths have been identified since the delimitation efforts began.

7/18/08

The delimitation effort by CDFA showed negative findings for a period of 3 LBAM life cycles and was therefore concluded. At this time San Luis Obispo County remains free of LBAM.